

Members:
Sen. Greg Server, Chair
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Harold Wheeler
Rep. James Bottorff
Rep. Markt Lytle
Rep. Richard Mangus
Rep. Phyllis Pond



NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 232-9855 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Bernadette Bartlett, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Jeanette Adams, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC 2-5-5

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 28, 1998
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 128
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Greg Server, Chair; Sen. Harold Wheeler; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Rep. Markt Lytle; Rep. James Bottorff; Rep. Phyllis Pond.

Members Absent: Sen. James Lewis; Rep. Richard Mangus.

Other Persons in Attendance: Larry Macklin, Director, and Bill Stuart, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Everett Ballentine, Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association; John A. Crone, National Rifle Association; Woody Barton, Bill Miller, and Robert Miller, Sycamore Trails; Vicki Carson and Phil Carew, Indiana Hardwood Lumber Association; Kerry Daily, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.; Gary DeLong, Discover Indiana Riding Trails; Tonya Galbraith and Jodie Woods, Indiana Association of Cities and Towns; Bill Hayden, Sierra Club; Ronald P. Hellmich, Indiana Resource Managers Association; Christa Jones, Gene Schmidt, Edgar Corns and Carey McKibben, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Tim Mahoney, Hoosier Environmental Council; Nat Noland, Indiana Coal Council; Glenn Shelby, SDS Group; Bill Stuart, (DNR); and Mike Warner, Hoosier Heartland.

Call to Order. Sen. Server, Chair of the Natural Resources Study Committee, called the meeting to order. After an introduction of the Committee members, Sen. Server explained the purpose of the meeting which was to identify topics which the Committee may wish to examine during the 1998 interim.

The Committee was presented with its legislative charges as well as topics assigned to the Committee by the Legislative Council. Committee members offered topics for consideration. The Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) then proposed study issues, and finally the public and interested organizations brought issues before the Committee. A list of proposed topics for study as well as who requested the study follows.

Proposed Study Topics for the Natural Resources Study Committee 1998 Interim

1. Topics Referred by the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council requested a study of the wild turkey population as well as a review of the problems occurring due to the overlap of the crossbow season with the long bow and compound bow season.

2. Lake Front Property Lines and Piers and Temporary Structures. Sen. Wheeler asked for a clarification of property lines on lake front properties, citing battles between neighbors regarding who

owns the pier property. He asked if property owners own property to the water's edge, and he would like to receive input from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on whether the Natural Resources Commission can remedy the problem or if statutory changes are necessary. Sen. Craycraft indicated that he had received questions from his constituents about temporary vs. permanent piers.

3. Fee Increase at State Parks. Sen. Craycraft noted that some of his constituents had contacted him and voiced their concern about the increase in fees at state parks.

Sen. Server asked for reports on the following issues (items 4 through 10):

4. Inns at Various State Parks.

5. Fees Assessed Currently at State Parks.

6. Mapping of Indiana by the Geological Survey.

7. Sports Fishing on Lake Michigan (in particular, fishing for perch).

8. DNR Land Acquisition.

9. Silt Problems Experienced at Lake Shafer.

10. Satellite Mapping of Indiana;

11. Changing the Statutory Definition of Nursery Stock. Larry Macklin, Director of the DNR, introduced Dr. Robert Waltz, who acquainted the Committee with issues pertaining to the statutory definition of nursery stock (IC 14-8-2-184), which currently includes day lilies and mums.

12. Changing the Types of Nursery Stock Facilities That Must Be Inspected. Dr. Waltz requested that the Committee examine the types of facilities that must be inspected, suggesting that inspections focus on facilities at greater risk, which would require a change in IC 14-24-5-2.

13. Invasion of the Gypsy Moth. Director Macklin offered to report on the progress of the gypsy moth which has invaded Steuben County and could invade other parts of Indiana.

14. Invasion of Zebra Mussels. Rep. Pond asked for an update on the invasion of the zebra mussels in Indiana waters.

15. Silver Dollar Lilies. Sen. Craycraft inquired about a report on the spread of silver dollar lilies in Indiana ponds.

16. Protecting the Keeping of Birds of Prey by Licensed Falconers. Dick Mercier, of the Indiana Sportsmen's Round Table and the Indiana Falconers Association, asked for legislation to protect the keeping of birds of prey by licensed falconers from any laws, ordinances, or regulations passed by local units of government.

17. Unavailability of a Sufficient Number of Seedlings from the DNR Nurseries. Woody Barton, Sycamore Trails, explained that the DNR nursery provides excellent seedlings; however, the demand for the seedlings has exceeded the supply. The production of seedlings has increased during the past year from 4.5 million to 5.5 million; however, this increase will not meet all the need. An estimated 6.5 to 7.5 million seedlings are needed each year. Everett Ballentine of the Woodland and Forestry Owners Association, Phil Carew of the Indiana Hardwood Lumber Association, Nat Noland of the Indiana Coal Council, and Mike Warner representing privately owned nurseries, acknowledged the need for more seedlings. Rep. Pond asked about whether the state should provide seedlings to private industry at a reduced price and inquired about the price differential between seedlings provided by the private sector and those provided by the state.

18. Hunting and the Use of Alcohol. Phil Ohmit with the Hoosier Conservation Alliance asked the Committee to consider prohibiting the use of alcohol while hunting.

19. **Clean Water Indiana.** Clean Water Indiana is a natural resources conservation program that expands upon the success of Indiana T by 2000, a water quality and soil erosion prevention program previously implemented in Indiana.

20. **Acceleration of the Indiana Geological Survey Mapping Program.** The Indiana Geological Survey is interested in accelerating the time table for the mapping of the state. Acceleration of the program will require an additional \$500,000 per year for two years to provide needed staffing, services, and equipment. About 10% of Indiana is mapped. The mapping program may enable the state to participate in certain federal funding programs.

21. **Off-road Recreational Vehicles.** Gary DeLong, Indiana Trails Advisory Board, suggested changes to IC 14-16-1-10 to allow land acquisition for off-road vehicles and a change to IC 14-16-1-11(e) to allow vehicle dealers to provide registration stickers.

22. **Increase in Fees for Snowmobile Registrations.** Senator Server indicated that the Indiana Snowmobilers Association had expressed an interest in having the Committee consider an increase in fees for snowmobile registrations.

Sen. Wheeler complimented the DNR for hiring ten new conservation officers, noting the need for the officers given the number of lakes located in Indiana.

Ronald P. Hellmich, Indiana Resource Managers Association, thanked the Committee for its work in obtaining pay raises for DNR professional employees. DNR Director Macklin indicated that 700 people received upgrades with increases ranging from 9 to 15%, plus the 4% per year for all state employees, placing Indiana at 90% of the median of other states.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 10:00 a.m., at the Statehouse. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Committee was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.